

Atty Dkt No. 200207627-1

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An object catch bin comprising:
a back stop;
a tray angularly disposed to the back stop, the tray pivotal about the vertex of the tray and the back stop, the tray having a top surface, wherein the object catch bin is configured such that an entirety of the top surface is not engaged by any other overlying structure prior to receiving an object; and
bias means for resisting pivoting of the tray and yielding to the weight of objects caught by the tray.
2. (Currently Amended) The object catch bin of claim 1 wherein the tray is pivotable relative to and the back stop between a first position in which object engaging surfaces of the tray and of the backstop are at a first angle and a second position in which the object engaging surfaces of the tray and the backstop are at a wider and obtuse second angle are fixed relative to each other.
3. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 1 wherein the back stop is pivotal about the vertex of the tray and back stop.
4. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 1 further comprising a base member for holding the tray.
5. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 4 wherein the bias means is disposed between the tray and the base member.
6. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 1 further including a hinge attached to the tray for pivoting the tray about the vertex of the tray and the back stop.
7. (Currently Amended) The object catch bin of claim 1 further including a conveyor device configured to project and drop objects onto the tray, wherein the

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conveyor device is configured to disengage the objects once the objects are on the tray
~~means for projecting and dropping an object into the tray.~~

8. (Currently Amended) An object catch bin comprising;
a tray disposed to catch objects, the tray having an edge and pivotal
about the edge;
bias means for resisting pivoting of the tray about the edge and yielding
to the weight of objects caught by the tray; and
a back stop for catching objects within the tray, wherein the tray is
pivotable relative to the back stop between a first position in which object engaging
surfaces of the tray and of the backstop are at a first angle and a second position in
which the object engaging surfaces of the tray and the backstop are at a wider and
obtuse second angle.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The object catch bin of claim 8 wherein the
back stop does not pivot with the tray.

11. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 8 further comprising a base
member for holding the tray.

12. (Previously Presented) The object catch bin of claim 11 wherein the
bias means is disposed between the base member and the tray.

13. (Original) The object catch bin of claim 8 further including a hinge
attached to the tray for pivoting the tray about the edge of the tray.

14. (Currently Amended) The object catch bin of claim 8 further including
a conveyor device configured to project and drop objects onto the tray, wherein the
conveyor device is configured to disengage the objects once the objects are on the tray
~~means for projecting and dropping an object into the tray.~~

15-18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The object catch bin of Claim 1 wherein the bias means extends below the tray and wherein the tray is configured to catch objects impacting the tray vertically above and over the bias means.

21. (Previously Presented) The object catch bin of Claim 8 wherein the bias means extends below the tray and wherein the tray is configured to catch objects impacting the tray vertically above and over the bias means.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a tray configured to catch objects falling as a result of gravity, wherein the tray is configured to pivot about an axis between a raised position and a lowered position;

a backstop coupled to the tray and configured to pivot with the tray, wherein the tray and the backstop have surfaces angularly spaced from one another by an obtuse angle and configured to engage caught objects; and

a bias resiliently biasing the tray towards the raised position and configured to yield to the weight of objects caught by the tray.

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23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 22 further comprising a conveyer device above the tray and configured to transport objects from above the tray onto the tray, wherein the conveyer device is selected from a group of devices consisting of one or more conveyor belts, one or more rollers or one or more slides..

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the bias extends beneath tray and wherein the tray is configured to catch objects impinging the tray over and above the bias.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tray has a top surface having a first length that extends from the backstop across and beyond the bias means and wherein the top surface is uncovered such that the tray may catch objects having a second length greater than or equal to the first length and that fall against the backstop while also falling across and beyond the bias means.

26. (New) A method comprising:

dropping an object onto a tray such that the object engages a backstop and falls across and over a bias beneath the tray resiliently supporting the tray; and

pivoting the tray against the bias in response to impact of the object with the tray.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the tray pivots from a first position in which object engaging surfaces of the tray and the backstop extend at a first angle to a second position in which the object engaging surfaces of the tray and the backstop extend at a wider and obtuse angle upon catching the object.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the tray and the backstop have surfaces configured to engage the object and extending at an obtuse angle relative to one another.